

Appl. No. : 10/646,333
Filed : August 22, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 134,135,147-154,159-161, 169, 170, and 174-317 are pending in this application. Claims 1-133, 136-146, 158, 162-168 and 171-173 have been canceled. Claims 134, 135, 147, 153, 159, 160, and 161 have been amended. New Claims 174-317 have been added. Support for the new claims and amendments is found in the specification and claims as filed. Applicants reserve the ability to pursue claims as filed, canceled claims, or similar claims in one or more continuing patent applications.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowability with respect to Claims 134, 135, 147-152, 153-157, and 159-161, and the allowance of Claims 169 and 170.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 124-133, 136, 138, 142-146, 158, 162-168, and 171-173 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Colvin, Jr. et al. (US 6,330,464). Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the propriety of the rejection, Claims 124-133, 136, 138, 142-146, 158, 162-168, and 171-173 have been canceled without prejudice, solely to facilitate issuance of the claims indicated to be allowable. The rejection is therefore moot.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 137 and 139-141 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Colvin, Jr. et al. (US 6,330,464). Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the propriety of the rejection, Claims 137 and 139-141 have been canceled without prejudice, solely to facilitate issuance of the claims indicated to be allowable. The rejection is therefore moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 134, 135, 147-152, 153-157 and 159-161 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but have been indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 147, 159, 160, and 161 have been redrafted into independent form to include all limitations of their base Claim 124. Claims 148-152 depend from allowable Claim 147. Claim 134 has been redrafted into independent form to include all limitations of its base Claim 124 and intervening Claim 132. Claim 135 depends from allowable Claim 134. Claim 153 has been redrafted into independent form to include all the limitations of its base Claim 124 and

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intervening Claim 142. Claims 155-157 depend from Claim 154, which depends from allowable Claim 153. New Claims 174-317 depend from allowable claims.

Conclusion

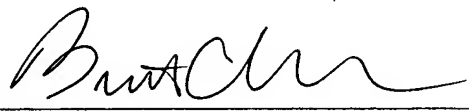
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns that might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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